



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui
Serving California's 5th District

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The following is a statement from U.S. Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) following the death this weekend of U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI):

"With the passing of Patsy Mink, the U.S. House of Representatives, the people of Hawaii, and the nation have lost a woman whose vision and inspiration made her one of the most respected leaders in Congress. Simply put, Patsy Mink was a trailblazer. For Patsy, no challenge was insurmountable, and no barrier was unbreakable. She was a remarkable woman whose energy and spirit opened doors for millions of Americans.

"Patsy leaves behind her a string of accomplishments too long to recount. By the time I was elected to Congress in 1978, she had already won passage of a major piece of civil rights legislation: Title IX expanded opportunities to female student athletes across the United States. She brought her respect for the environment and a fierce commitment to protecting our natural resources to Congress from her native Hawaii. And her work on welfare reform over the past year reflected her fundamental belief that families living in poverty deserve the opportunity to share in the American dream. The country has benefited from Patsy's dedication to her values and her devotion to progress on behalf of our nation's most vulnerable members. And those who had the privilege to know her have benefited from her warmth, kindness, and friendship.

"Patsy Mink's unyielding commitment to issues of social justice and equality will be deeply missed in the House, as will her friendship and leadership. I join colleagues and friends from across the country in expressing my condolences to her family, as well as my gratitude for the many years we served together in the House. She will be greatly missed."

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